

Appl. No.: 10/630,156  
Amtd. Dated: 04/27/2009  
Off. Act. Dated: 01/27/2009

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended): A fuel cell assembly comprising:  
a bipolar separator plate having a first side and a second side;  
a membrane electrode assembly attached to said first side;  
independently-acting compliant members attached to said second side; and  
a conductive laminar electrical contact attached to said independently acting compliant members;  
wherein said independently-acting compliant members are attached to and located between said bipolar separator plate and said conductive laminar electrical contact.
2. (currently amended): The fuel cell assembly according to claim 1, additionally comprising apertures in said conductive laminar electrical contact;  
wherein said apertures facilitate gas flow through the assembly.
3. (previously presented): The fuel cell assembly according to claim 2, additionally comprising a second conductive laminar electrical contact attached to a subset of said independently acting compliant members.
4. (previously presented): The fuel cell assembly according to claim 3, additionally comprising a third laminar electrical contact attached to a subset of said independently acting compliant members.

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5. (original): The fuel cell assembly according to claim 2 wherein said independently acting compliant members comprise springs.

6. (original): The fuel cell assembly according to claim 5, wherein said laminar electrical contacts are formed into an array having a length, wherein said membrane electrode assembly has a length, and wherein said length of said array is approximately equal to said length of said membrane electrode assembly.

7. (original): The fuel cell assembly according to claim 5 wherein said laminar electrical contacts are formed into an array having a width, wherein said membrane electrode assembly has a width, and wherein said width of said array is approximately equal to said width of said membrane electrode assembly.

8. (original): The fuel cell assembly according to claim 6 wherein said laminar electrical contacts are formed into an array having a width, wherein said membrane electrode assembly has a width, and wherein said width of said array is approximately equal to said width of said membrane electrode assembly.

9. (original): A fuel cell stack comprised of a first assembly according to claim 1 and a second assembly according to claim 1, wherein the laminar electrical contact of said first assembly is in electrical contact with the membrane electrode assembly of said second assembly.

Claims 10-11 (cancelled)

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12. (currently amended): A method for maintaining electrical contact between a bipolar separator plate and a membrane electrode assembly in a fuel cell stack comprising placing independently acting compliant members and a laminar electrical contact between said bipolar separator plate and said membrane electrode assembly;

wherein said independently acting compliant members are attached to and located between said bipolar separator plate and said laminar electrical contact.

13. (currently amended): A fuel cell module comprising:  
a bipolar separator plate with a first side and a second side;  
a membrane electrode assembly attached to said first side;  
flexible means for making electrical contact attached to said second side; and  
a laminar electrical contact attached to said flexible means;

wherein said flexible means for making electrical contact are attached to and located between said bipolar separator plate and said laminar electrical contact.

14. (previously presented): The fuel cell module according to claim 13, additionally comprising a second laminar electrical contact attached to a subset of said flexible means.

15. (previously presented): The fuel cell module according to claim 14, additionally comprising a third laminar electrical contact attached to a subset of said flexible means.

16. (currently amended): The fuel cell module according to claim 13, additionally comprising apertures in said laminar electrical contact;  
wherein said apertures facilitate gas flow through the module.

17. (original): A fuel cell stack comprised of  
a first module according to claim 13, and  
a second module according to claim 13,  
wherein the laminar electrical contact of said first module is pressed by said  
flexible means into electrical contact with the membrane electrode assembly of said  
second module.
18. (original): A fuel cell stack comprised of  
a first module according to claim 14, and  
a second module according to claim 14,  
wherein the laminar electrical contacts of said first module are pressed by said  
flexible means into electrical contact with the membrane electrode assembly of said  
second module.
19. (currently amended): A fuel cell stack comprised of  
a first module, comprising:
  - a bipolar separator plate with a first side and a second side;
  - a membrane electrode assembly attached to said first side;
  - flexible means for making electrical contact attached to said second side;
  - a laminar electrical contact attached to said flexible means;
  - a second laminar electrical contact attached to a subset of said flexible  
means; and
  - a third laminar electrical contact attached to a subset of said flexible  
means;

wherein said flexible means for making electrical contact are located  
between said bipolar separator plate and said laminar electrical contacts; and

a second module, comprising:
  - a bipolar separator plate with a first side and a second side;

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a membrane electrode assembly attached to said first side;  
flexible means for making electrical contact attached to said second side;  
a laminar electrical contact attached to said flexible means;  
wherein said laminar electrical contact comprises apertures;  
wherein said flexible means for making electrical contact are located  
between said bipolar separator plate and said laminar electrical contact;  
wherein the laminar electrical contacts of said first module are pressed by said  
flexible means into electrical contact with the membrane electrode assembly of said  
second module.

20. (previously presented): A fuel cell stack comprised of  
a first module according to claim 16, and  
a second module according to claim 16,  
wherein the laminar electrical contact of said first module is pressed by said  
flexible means into electrical contact with the membrane electrode assembly of said  
second module.

21. (cancelled)